

**Introduced by Senator Cox**

February 24, 2009

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An act to amend Section 120395 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to vaccinations.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 249, as introduced, Cox. Vaccinations: meningitis.

Existing law requires the State Department of Public Health to develop information about meningococcal disease, and make it available to each requesting degree-granting public and private postsecondary institution and to each requesting school district. Existing law authorizes the department to design and implement a public awareness campaign to reach members of the population identified as being at high risk for contracting the disease.

This bill would expressly authorize this campaign to include children 11 years of age.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares
- 2 that the Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices of the
- 3 federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recently
- 4 recommended that parents and adolescents between 11 and 18
- 5 years of age be made aware that a vaccine is now available to
- 6 protect this age group from the potentially fatal disease known as
- 7 meningitis.
- 8 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to do all the following:

1 (1) Encourage the State Department of Public Health to increase  
2 the awareness of the availability of the vaccine to this age group.

3 (2) Encourage local public health officials to provide information  
4 about meningitis, including the availability of, and  
5 recommendations for, the vaccine, in any manner they deem  
6 appropriate.

7 (3) Encourage local school districts to educate their students  
8 within the 11 to 18 age group, as well as their parents, about the  
9 meningitis disease, its potential danger, and the availability of a  
10 vaccine to protect these children.

11 SEC. 2. Section 120395 of the Health and Safety Code is  
12 amended to read:

13 120395. (a) The State Department of *Public Health Services*  
14 shall, no later than April 1, 2002, develop information about  
15 meningococcal disease. The information shall include:

16 (1) Information about meningococcal disease, including  
17 symptoms, risks, and treatment.

18 (2) Notice of the availability, benefits, risks, and limitations of  
19 a meningococcus vaccination, with specific information as to those  
20 persons at higher risk for the disease.

21 (b) The department shall make available to each degree-granting  
22 public and private postsecondary institution, upon the request of  
23 that institution, information developed by the department on  
24 meningococcal disease.

25 (c) The department shall also send an information notice to each  
26 school district advising each school district of the availability of  
27 information developed by the department, and shall make the  
28 information available to any school district upon the request of  
29 that school district.

30 (d) The department may also use the information developed to  
31 design and implement a public awareness campaign about  
32 meningococcal disease to reach members of the population  
33 identified as being at high risk for contracting the disease, *including*  
34 *children who are at least 11 years of age.*